Recent international economic downturns have caused many people to reflect on the value of work. The financial benefits of work allow people to support themselves and often their families. Many employees are provided health care benefits, occasionally comprehensive medical and dental benefits. Work also has important social value. For adults, personal identity is often based on work accomplishments, responsibilities, and status. Many employees develop and maintain friendships in their workplace where recreational and social events are planned. Work also provides activities which fill daily lives, often five or more days each week.

Given the important role of work in many people’s lives, we have organized this issue of *NeuroRehabilitation* around the theme of vocational rehabilitation. Neurological injury or illness is often a perplexing and overwhelming experience for survivors. Long-term unemployment postinjury is common and perhaps one of the most devastating aspects of disability.

We have made substantial progress in the development of acute care medical techniques to increase survival rates. Improving the employment rate following the onset of neurological disability remains as a major obstacle to improving quality of life.

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